GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3875
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006
GLOBAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the latest Global Information Technology Report, released in Geneva, India has out-stripped China and Russia in IT race;

(b) if so, India`s place in the IT sector vis-a-vis other big countries as per this report; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for improving India`s place vis-a-vis other big world economics?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR.SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a): Yes, Sir. India has out-stripped China & Russia in IT Race. The Global Information Technology Report 2005-2006`s `Networked Readiness Index` gives the degree of preparedness of a nation or community to participate in and benefit from ICT developments.

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India - Network Readiness Index - 0.23 (40th rank)
China - Network Readiness Index - -0.01 (50th rank)
Russia - Network Readiness Index - -0.39 (72nd rank)
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(b): India is ranked at 40th position out of 115 Member countries.

(c): A National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) has been drawn up by GOI to expedite implementation of e-Governance in the country. The NeGP includes establishment of the following core infrastructure aimed at improving the Network Readiness index.:

1. A Scheme for establishment of State Wide Area Networks (SWANs) for providing minimum data connectivity of 2 Mbps up to the block level, has been approved by the Government in March, 2005 with a total outlay of Rs.3,334 Crores with Central Assistance component of Rs.2005 crores covering capital and operating expenditure over a period of 5 years.

2 . Government has formulated a proposal for establishing 100,0 00+ Information & Communication Technology (ICT) enabled Common Services Centres (CSCs) predominantly in the rural areas across the country. These CSCs would have the flexibility to offer a mix of services (both Government and non-Government, including localized services) that may be needed by the local community.